

Equality for All Resolution

Expressing the sense of Congress that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people should be protected from discrimination under the law.

Whereas equal protection under the law is protected as a core American value and legal principle;

Whereas the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 7 states “All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.”

Whereas many gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people experience discrimination throughout the scope of their lives including in acquiring credit, seeking jobs, accessing public accommodations, attending school, receiving services, renting a home, and performing their civic duty as a juror;

Whereas Americans of every age, every faith, every political party, and every socio-economic background recognize discrimination against lesbian, gay bisexual, and transgender people to be a serious problem;

Whereas religious liberty and nondiscrimination laws have long co-existed;

Whereas existing federal law and recent executive actions provide some protections to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender workers, students, and federal program recipients;

Whereas the states of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, and Washington plus the District of Columbia prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in employment and housing, and New Hampshire, New York and Wisconsin prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment and housing;

Whereas the states of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Washington plus the District of Columbia prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in public accommodations, and Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Wisconsin prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in public accommodations;

Whereas the states of states of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington plus the District of Columbia prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in education, and Wisconsin prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in education;

Whereas more than 100 cities in states without explicit non-discrimination laws have adopted ordinances barring discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity;

Whereas eighty-nine percent of Fortune 500 companies have proactively adopted nondiscrimination policies inclusive of sexual orientation and sixty-six percent of Fortune 500 companies have adopted non-discrimination policies inclusive of gender identity;

Whereas gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals may still be legally discriminated against in many jurisdictions in the areas of credit, employment, education, housing, jury service, and public accommodations.

Whereas discrimination based on who a person is or whom they love is antithetical to a society based on the protection of human and civil rights: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This resolution may be cited as the “Equality for all Resolution”

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER PEOPLE.

- (a) In General – It is the sense of Congress that gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people are valuable, contributing members of society and that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is a serious problem.
- (b) Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people deserve equal treatment under the law and existing federal protections are inadequate to ensure nondiscrimination protections.
- (c) Congress should pass comprehensive legislation that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in areas including credit, employment, education, federally funded programs, housing, jury service, and public accommodations.
- (d) State Encouragement – Congress encourages each state to simultaneously adopt laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in credit, employment, education, federally funded programs, housing, jury service, and public accommodations and to reject laws that undermine nondiscrimination protections.